



PDC NEWS

711 Capitol Way, Room 206
Olympia Washington

Public Disclosure Commission

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Commission Formally Adopts Revised School District Guidelines

At a public hearing today in Olympia PDC Commissioners adopted revised guidelines for school districts in election campaigns. The document, PDC Interpretation 02-01, was developed to provide a set of common sense, easy-to-use guidelines for school district personnel.

The general concepts of the guidelines are not new, but those concepts have been arranged in a format that promotes enhanced understanding of what is permitted and not permitted under state law.

The document, Guidelines for School Districts in Election Campaigns, relies on the statutory standard of "normal and regular conduct" when addressing election related publications and as much as possible the guidelines incorporate specific language found in the statutes and in Commission rule.

Rules for January 2002 Slated for Public Hearing in October

PDC Commissioners approved four packages of proposed rules for public hearing on October 23, 2001.

- I. **Rules Regarding Mini Reporting.** This package relates to five existing rules and completes the process for eliminating Abbreviated reporting and raising the Mini reporting thresholds.
 - Amend WAC 390-16-041 Forms – Summary of Total Contributions and Expenditures.
 - Amend WAC 390-16-115 Abbreviated Campaign Reporting – Conditions for Granting Use.
 - Repeal WAC 390-16-120 Abbreviated Campaign Reporting – Times and Place for Filing Reports C-1, C-1pc and C-4abb.
 - Amend WAC 390-16-125 Abbreviated Campaign Reporting – Exceeding Limitations.
 - Repeal WAC 390-16-155 Mini Campaign Reporting – Exceeding Limitations.
- II. **Rules on Occupation and Employer Thresholds.** The rules amend the threshold amount at which occupation and employer information is required and revises PDC form C-3.
 - Amend WAC 390-16-034 Additional Reporting Requirements.
 - Amend WAC 390-16-031 Forms for Statement of Contributions Deposit.
- III. **Rules on I-134 Thresholds and Implementation of HB 1770.** This package of proposed rules would change the limit and threshold amounts established by Initiative 134 and convert PDC Interpretation 01-02 into a permanent rule.
 - Amend WAC 390-05-400 Changes in Dollar Amounts.
 - Adopt WAC 390-17-302 Contributions After the Primary Election.

IV. **Rules Regarding Electronic Filing.** The proposed rules represent the first step in implementing RCW 42.17.3691 and are designed to provide guidance to candidates and political committees required to file reports electronically.

- Adopt WAC 390-19-010 Intent of Electronic Filing.
- Adopt WAC 390-19-020 Electronic Filing – Mandatory Filing.
- Adopt WAC 390-19-030 Electronic Filing – Reporting Threshold.
- Adopt WAC 390-19-040 Electronic Filing – Verification and Amendments.
- Adopt WAC 390-19-050 Electronic Filing – Exceptions.
- Repeal WAC 390-16-190 Electronic Filing.

Enforcement Action

The Commission assessed both the Bethel and Clover Park School Districts a \$1,000 civil penalty for failing to maintain open for public inspection documents relating to withholding wages for the purpose of making contributions to a political committee. [RCW 42.17.680(4)] Five hundred dollars of the civil penalty was suspended contingent upon no future violations of the public disclosure laws for four years.

At the meeting, commissioners stressed the importance of each school district keeping the required records open for public inspection during working hours, including any lunch hour during which business is conducted, in compliance with RCW 42.17.680(4).

The Commission also levied civil penalties against seven government officials for violating RCW 42.17.240 by failing to file the annual Statement of Financial Affairs by April 16, 2001. The officials who were assessed a penalty are:

- **Stanley Hull, School Director, Cape Flattery School District** – Assessed a civil penalty of \$500. Hull also has unpaid penalties of \$1,000. All outstanding penalties are to be paid within 30 days or the cases will be sent to the Attorney General's Office for collection.
- **Walter Mazna, Fire Commissioner, Clark County Fire District No. 14** – Assessed a civil penalty of \$500 with \$250 suspended. Mazna also has unpaid penalties of \$950. All outstanding penalties are to be paid within 30 days or the cases will be sent to the Attorney General's Office for collection.
- **Gregory Nelson, Fire Commissioner, King County Fire Protection District No. 20** – Assessed a civil penalty of \$500. Nelson also has unpaid penalties of \$250. All outstanding penalties are to be paid within 30 days or the cases will be sent to the Attorney General's Office for collection.
- **Sonia Shoptaw, School Director, Newport School District** – Assessed a civil penalty of \$500. Shoptaw also has unpaid penalties of \$750. All outstanding penalties are to be paid within 30 days or the cases will be sent to the Attorney General's Office for collection.
- **St. Clair Woodworth, Port Commissioner, Port of Sunnyside** – Assessed a civil penalty of \$1,000 and suspended \$500 pending no future violations of RCW 42.17 for the next three years.
- **William Wulff, School Director, Orcas Island School District No. 137** – Assessed a civil penalty of \$1,000, suspended \$500 pending no future violations of RCW 42.17 for the next four years. Wulff also has unpaid penalties of \$300. All outstanding penalties are to be paid within 30 days or the cases will be sent to the Attorney General's Office for collection.

Reporting Modifications

The Commission granted reporting modifications for filing the Personal Financial Affairs Statement to Deborah Y. Vancil, candidate for City Council Member, City of Bainbridge Island and Nolan Daines, candidate for School Board Director, Central Valley School District No. 356.

The Commission renewed previous reporting modifications for filing the Personal Financial Affairs Statement for Yvonne Cartwright, Trustee, Technical College District No. 25, Bellingham and Nancy Waldman, School Board Director, Seattle School District.

The Commission meeting materials can be found on our website at www.pdc.wa.gov under **Commission Meetings at Meeting Agendas and Materials**. For additional information concerning these issues contact Doug Ellis, Director of Public Outreach, at (360) 664-2735, toll free 1-877-601-2828 or e-mail at delis@pdc.wa.gov.